



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

# GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUR  
MISSION

Saved by Grace.  
Called to Worship.  
Sent to Serve.

## July/August 2016

INSIDE THIS EDITION

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Time to Think Transition Team – Back to the Basics

by Pastor Paul Kuhlman

As I write this article, the council is deciding on the steps to be taken to complete the Renovation Plan for this summer. Those plans include some very important renovations to the interior and exterior of our building in order to improve our welcoming of strangers and the appearance of our building to visitors. Most of the summer will be taken up with this project.

As important as the renovation project is for the future of Grace, there is another project that must begin in the fall. Beginning in September, the Congregation Council will consider the names for the members who will integrate the "Transition Team." A long list of names will be considered and the council will pray over those names to discern the final list of the members who will make up this most important ministry team.

The purpose of the Transition Team is to focus the congregation on the effort of discerning its ministry and mission in the world and discerning the gifts, qualities, and character of the pastor who will help to lead the members of Grace in this mission. The Transition Team is NOT the call committee which interviews candidates for ministry at Grace. Rather, the Transition Team helps the call committee understand and communicate the mission and vision of Grace to interested candidates. This is the "basic" reason for my being assigned to Grace by the bishop of our synod.

We have accomplished many things together and experienced many changes over the past 12 months, but it is time to get "back to basics." First and foremost, the next several months will be dedicated to the task of preparing the members of Grace to understand its call to mission and ministry in and around Grace. Let the thoughtful and metamorphic time of "transition" begin!

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**A Look @ Next Month - September 2016**  
**Theme: "Let it Begin"**

- **Summer Building Renovation Plans**—what remains
- **Carpet Fund**—time to finish this project
- **Children's Church**—a new idea for Children's Ministry
- **Transition Team**- process for formation
- **Getting Ready for New Pastor**

*Deadline for inclusion in the combined  
September GraceGram is **August 1, 2016.***

*Send your articles to Victoria Alt at:  
[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)*

## On the Cover

by Pastor Paul

This window is my most favorite window in the church because it has so many symbols prevalent in the Gospel of John—lamb, scripture, cross, resurrection, and more. Besides, for the church in conflict and mission, it screams JESUS!

My attention is first drawn to the Lamb sitting on a book. The Lamb is a frequent image for Jesus in the Gospel of John; in chapter 1 John the Baptist is heard saying about Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” precursor to our “Lamb of God” canticle used during or before communion. A lamb would have been used in Jesus’ day for sacrifice on the altar of the Temple, and its blood spread on and around the altar to symbolize the forgiveness of sins by God upon his people. Jesus is seen as the Lamb in early and medieval Christian art and music, who willingly dies on the cross for the sake of the salvation and sin of humanity.

This depiction of the Lamb of God is called the “paschal lamb,” Easter or Passover lamb, and the lamb is either looking forward or backward. The Lamb has a staff in the shape of a cross (the cross of St. Andrew—the patron saint of Scotland. Legend has it the bones of Andrew were taken to Scotland from Constantinople in the early Middle Ages).

The book on which the Lamb is seated could be the Holy Scriptures where the story and events of the Lamb/Jesus are proclaimed. In some traditions, the book on which the lamb reposes is the Book of the Seven Seals as mentioned in the early portions of the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament (the Lamb is a major character in this book).

Note the different places where the cross is seen. A cross serves as a staff for the red and white banner (a staff also was used by shepherds). A cross appears on the banner, a sign both of battle with the world (similar banners were carried by armies into battle), and a sign of the victory of the Lamb over death. A cross also appears as a halo around the head of the Lamb, another sign of victory or resurrection. The halo around the Lamb declares the Lamb both eternal and divine.

Notice as well that the cross or staff comes out of the side of the Lamb. You will remember that Jesus’ side was pierced after his death, and both water and blood poured out. There are no wounds on this Lamb, so we could say that the window portrays either the anticipated cross event or the victory of the resurrection and ascension of the Lamb/Jesus.

This symbol has been used often throughout history. It can be found on the coat of arms of Puerto Rico, the seal of the Moravian Church, on a 14<sup>th</sup> century coin minted by King Philip of France, in a stained glass window of the Royal Military School of Canada, and on Scotland’s flag. It has become a popular symbol for the Christian church throughout the ages.

You have to just love this window—it speaks JESUS!

## President’s Perspective

by Doug Neeb

Then Jesus said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

I have always struggled with this reading and what it means to me as a disciple of Jesus. When I think of denying myself and taking up my cross, I often think of people like Mother Teresa or Martin Luther King. Is this the type of person that Jesus is calling me to be, as one of his disciples? I just cannot see myself out in the world leading people to change social injustice, or spending all of my time and energy trying to feed the poor. A small group of Grace’s members have been meeting each week to pray for direction for our mission and ministry here at Grace. I have been anxiously waiting to see what God has in mind for us but, I have not been lead to accept any great crusade to change the world, yet.

I remember a commentary I read on the gospel reading this week. (Luke 7:36-8: 3) The commentator made a point of emphasizing the inclusion of the women who were supporting Jesus’s ministry and how each had been personally touched by Jesus just like the sinful woman who was forgiven. It seems to me that one of the ways Jesus accomplished his mission, was through personal contact with people, one person at a time. This seems like a blue print we should follow.

I wonder if Jesus’ call to deny myself is to not be so self-absorbed that I miss the chance to see my neighbor and the chance to share God’s good news one on one. That I need to be able to see the look of distress or confusion and follow Jesus’ blue print, developing a personal relationship with that person that helps them see that God is near. I wonder, is it that simple for me? I wonder, is it that simple for this gathering of disciples we call Grace Lutheran Church?

## Notes from the Veep

by Chris Bush

Thank you, Grace family, for allowing me to serve as your Vice President this past year. Last year, when I heard that Pastor Amy was leaving and got an understanding of the anger, grief, and healing that was ahead of us, I talked with then-President Mark Bishop and said, "I will be Vice President (for incoming-President Doug Neeb), if Council supports it and the Congregation votes me in." For some reason, I did not feel nervous about this decision; rather, I felt called and ready. I remember writing, in my farewell note to Pastor Amy, that my emotions were in a turmoil but that I felt "a small amount of hope." This hope has become fruit: we have welcomed quite a few new members to Grace, completed the new constitution, taken our youth to the National Gathering, had a car show, and have begun to make our space more welcoming. Grace is not standing still— we are alive through, in, and with Christ.

On a slightly different note, but still dealing with hope and life, this August marks the third anniversary of my being diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and beginning my hardest cancer battle yet. I remember how your tears, hugs, cards, visits, and prayers bolstered my spirits. I think of others - some still with us, some gone - who have fought cancer. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life offers the opportunity to show support to those in the community who have fought or are fighting cancer. The luminaries lining the track are a way of remembering and honoring cancer warriors. The Barry County Relay is in August – consider participating as a walker or stopping by and sharing in the community spirit.

Again, thank you for your support.

## Save the date – Barry County



## CROP Walk 2016

by Kim Domke

Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Walking location will be in Hastings (TBA) and begins at 2:00 PM

To get involved at/with the Grace Team contact with Kim Domke, see her at church or [kdomke08@gmail.com](mailto:kdomke08@gmail.com) or 269-908-0024.

## Annual Meeting in July

by Pastor Paul



Please mark on your calendars July 10<sup>th</sup>, the date of the Congregational Annual Meeting. We are required to have 20% of the membership present to have a quorum, so your presence is of the utmost importance. Grace will have only one service that day at 10:00 am, and the meeting will follow the worship service.

Why are annual meetings important? We see how the budget was spent, as approved from the year before, and we make decisions about how to spend our income for the next year, focused on the mission and ministry of Grace. All of the officers, committees, and the pastor give reports of what has happened and often times offer direction for the coming year. We see how we have grown over the past year, who has left us, and how well we have attended worship.

Just like giving an offering and participating in worship are signs of our commitment and membership at Grace, so participation in the congregational meeting is an annual sign of our commitment to the nature and function of Grace. It is one more way to be the "Body of Christ."

## Vacation Bible Schools in our area

Middleville Peace Church  
July 11-14, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

**Grace Lutheran Church –**  
The Great Bible Reef  
July 10-14, 5:15 - 8:30 pm (includes light dinner & snacks)

Middleville First Baptist Church  
August 1-5, 9:00 am – noon

Caledonia Spirit of Life  
August 9 (time to be determined)

Hastings St. Rose Catholic Church  
Dates TBD (early August)



## Community Outreach News

by Bill Freedlund

CROP Walk: We reviewed information about the CROP Walk that will be held in October. Look for more on the CROP walk as the date gets closer.

Car Show: The 2nd annual Grace Car show will be held on August 7th. Additional meetings will be held with input from other volunteers from the congregation. Plans will also include a special outdoor worship, and afternoon celebration. Various committees have agreed to fund this event. An estimate of expenses has been put together for the June council meeting.

Pictorial Directory: It was decided that a new pictorial directory will be in the works for this Fall. Pictures are tentatively scheduled for September 22-24th. Grace volunteers are needed to organize the schedule and the actual planning of the directory. A representative from Life Touch will be invited to meet and go over specifics.

Grace Banner: The Grace Banner has been updated and will be on display by the Fellowship Hall. A new banner stand is in the works.

Summerfest: Discussion was held on participation in Summerfest. Part of the July meeting will be spent on brainstorming for children's game activities. Summerfest date will be Saturday, August 27th.

Backpacks: Look for more information on a new approach to "back to school" backpacks in the coming months.

## Thank you!

**Renovation Team**—for your time, energy and commitment to developing a workable building renovation plan.

**Phil Poholski and the Property Team**—for installing new lighting that will save money and energy.

**Church Mice**—who regularly mow and maintain the church yard.

Thanks to the Grace family for their prayers and cards. Praise God for a successful surgery and recovery.  
~Jane Secor

## Grace's High School Youth

by Joe Longcor



Praise for great weather, praise for His people, praise for the Spirit, and praise for each gift to do His work. Thanks to each of you for your prayers and support; drivers and walker-byes who donated, the Grace community who gave very generously, and we pray all donors and helpers know how much they are appreciated.

Over \$950.00 (Amen!) at this time has been raised for Barry County Homeless efforts. These funds will be used to provide temporary housing in emergency situations, food items, and general support to provide a "hand-up" not a hand-out to individuals needing services.

We had glorious weather for the 2016 Homeless event. We had as many as eight youth and many adults from Grace join together along with representatives from United Way and the new Family Promise of Barry County for this event to help assure success. Donations were accepted up to 7:30 PM, faith time ran from 8-8:30 p.m., sharing carried throughout the night as three youth experienced sleeping in boxes on the concrete at the fountain and two youth kept an overnight vigil talking with Joe... yep they kept the ol' man awake... thanks.

At an upcoming Grace event, Joe will be getting at least 9 guacamole pies in the face, have his beard dyed bright fluorescent colors, and he will make an appearance(s) dressed in a tutu and pink leotard "dancing to da music" ... oh my! We pray the fun and spirit of helping our community expresses God's love for His people and strengthens our own Grace family.

Special thanks to Gwen Hansen, Kenzie Rudesill, Shelby Schilds, Jenn Rosenberger, Vickey Argo, Kristi Winick, Kay Howell, and last minute super dad and fundraiser Tom Peck along with others behind the scene. A HUGE thanks to the Grace family for prayers and your unselfish gifts that made this event one of the best yet!

May our actions fulfill our words and may "They know we are Christians by our Love" as God blesses us and works to "Bind us Together." Peace and blessings to all.

# July's 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday moving to August – say what?!

by Pastor Paul

You heard it correctly, the “fifth Sunday” of July is being moved to the “first Sunday” of August. Traditionally at Grace on the fifth Sunday we always have just one service, at 10:00 am, so that the members of each service have the chance to get to know one another. That idea has not always worked, but the concept is good, at least.

August 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of August is the date for the second annual Grace Car Show. The Community Outreach Committee (previously known as the Evangelism Committee) wanted a good turn-out of members for the show, as well as to connect the mission of Grace with the community. Therefore, the committee established Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, for the car show, and decided that all of Grace should worship together, on the front lawn of the church, to witness to the open character of Grace to the needs and concerns of the community of Hastings.

With that said, remember you can come to either the 8:00 am or the 10:00 am service on July 31<sup>st</sup>, and August 7<sup>th</sup> has just the 10:00 am service. Bring your favorite folding/lawn chair if you wish on August 7<sup>th</sup>, and plan to join the car enthusiasts for lunch under the big tent or in the Fellowship Hall.

## Rebuilding Our Yard



### A project in waiting

by Pastor Paul

The Property Committee is pursuing plans to transform the lawn around our building, especially on the east and south sides, into a spectacle for the eyes. A plan has been presented to the committee, and the council has approved a budget for this year for some serious transformations in the landscape around Grace. The council sees it as a two year project, so some things will be done this year, and more will be added in the spring and summer of 2017.

Discussion is also underway to do something about our parking lot in order to keep it functional and “together” for another 5-6 years. Though a complete overhaul is out of the question for economic reasons, we have been given the incentive to make some serious, far-less expensive changes in order to extend the life of the parking lot.



During that extended lifetime we hope to secure the funds for a more complete upgrade.

Be sure to express your appreciation to the Property Committee, the Renovation Team and the Congregation Council for their efforts to make significant upgrades to the church facilities that add luster and curb-appeal to Grace. They are committed to improving the property we have so that it looks good to the community and visitors see that we care about the gifts and treasures God has entrusted to us.

## Grace Car Show in August

by Pastor Paul & Gary Golnek

The Second Annual Grace Car Show is being planned for August 7<sup>th</sup>. You will see that it falls on a Sunday this year, so that more members of the congregation can be a part of the event, and to continue our efforts to put Grace in the midst of the “public square.”

Announcement fliers were handed out at a recent car show, emails and mailings went out to attendees from last year’s show. With advertising in the local paper and signs to inform the public of Grace’s Car Show we hope to have more cars present, and we hope that more of our Hastings neighbors will join us in this event. The invitation is to anyone with a classic or antique car, truck or motorcycle, to show their vehicle.

The Car Show begins at 9:00 am and runs to about 3:00 pm. During the show, the people of Grace will gather on the front lawn for worship, inviting anyone and everyone to join us in the Word of God. After worship we will gather with our neighbors for a lunch brought to you by Thrivent and our own Social Activities Committee, sharing a variety of foods from the grill from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

Invite your friends and neighbors to this event. If you would like to donate food contact Diane Neeb at 269-945-9470, or for contributions to help offset the cost of this event, place your contribution in an envelope and mark it “Grace Car Show.” Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Remember to mark your calendar for one service at 10:00 AM which will be “under the tent” with an open invitation for car show attendees and spectators to join us in our worship service.

Hope to see you there for a fun time, fellowship, good food and sharing the word of our Lord with our neighbors.

# Moving Forward – Building Renovation

by Doug Neeb

Grace's Congregational Council has approved a plan for updating our building spaces. The goal of the plan is to improve our building and properties for the purpose of Mission and Outreach to our community. The plan is broken down into several steps and you have already seen the starting of the first steps.

The first step is to de-clutter and organize the building. After fifty some years of Mission and Ministry there is a lot of stuff we have accumulated. Not all of the stuff is useful anymore; most of it was just stuffed back in some corner and forgotten. Just talk to some of the people that have worked on this. The second step will be to start to clean and re-paint the de-cluttered rooms. The third and most visible step will also cause the most disruption of our life together as a congregation. We are going to modify the Entranceway/ Narthex area of our church. The purpose is to create a more inviting first impression and improve this area's function for Mission and Ministry. The plan involves removing a part of the conference room, creating a



coat room and space that will house our mailboxes. The conference room will be moved to the area that we now call the Chapel off of the Fellowship hall that is underutilized at this point. Included in this step is updating our electrical service and removing some of its shortcomings.

The next step will be relocating the Parish Administrator's office into what is now the High School youth lounge. We then will be able to open up the Narthex area to make a more useable space for a Coffee/Mission area. Future steps dependent on funding will include moving the Pastor's office next to the Parish Administrator's office and the removal of the Choir Loft to improve and increase our worship space. This will open up the entrance to our worship space making it more user friendly. The fourth step and most expensive step will be replacing the carpet/ flooring in our building. The last step will be improving our landscaping. We are working on the detailed work plan and will be sharing that at a later date.

There will be a lot of work, a lot of change, a lot of excitement, along with some frustration and concerns going on at the same time. The challenge will be to keep calm and keep communicating as we move forward. If you find that you have a concern or issue please contact a person on the Council and we can try to address your issue or direct you to the proper person.



by Kim Domke

## CHIMES Ringing in July

Thursday, July 8, 2016

New Ringer: bell/chime basics workshop  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, 3-4:15pm

Anyone going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade or older, who would like to give chimes and bells a try.

CHIME: Practice for evening event 4:15-5:15pm  
Dinner together 5:15... make your own "subway", chips, drink, and dessert. Leave church at 6:00pm and drive downtown to set up by fountain.

RING AT THE COURTHOUSE LAWN FOUNTAIN from  
6:30 to 8:00pm  
Back to church and unload....done by 8:30.

What to wear? Shorts or skirt (mid-thigh or longer) and purple bell shirt

Rain-date – no outside performance will be rescheduled, however, all other ringing and eating activities will still take place at Grace.

Contact Kim Domke for more details or to sign up for this event [kdomke08@gmail.com](mailto:kdomke08@gmail.com) or 269-908-0024.



## July Birthdays

- 7-3 Jan Schreiner, Terry Bushee  
7-7 Bob Bolton, Linda Trongo, McKenzie Rudesill  
7-8 Molly Patton  
7-9 Mike Kemper  
7-12 Sharon Palmer  
7-14 Beverly McDyer, Joseph Pruitt  
7-16 Phyllis Lietz, Peg Kaiser  
7-17 Lisa Golnek  
7-19 Paula Allerding, Matt Converse  
7-21 Kathryn Pohl  
7-22 Paul Kuhlman  
7-24 Jonathan Reid  
7-25 Frank Bolton, Anne Johnson, Kim Ogden  
7-29 Dakota Henion, Luke Poholski  
7-30 John Poholski

## July Anniversaries

- 7-2 Peg & Terry Newton  
7-3 Cindy & Dave Beckwith  
7-7 Tim & Nancy Schoessel  
7-8 Doug & Diane Neeb, Kristi & George Winick  
7-29 Curt & Anne Johnson  
7-31 Steve & Sumire Kogge

## August Birthdays

- 8-1 Doris Allerding, Dave DeDecker  
8-2 Dan Steinke  
8-3 Tommy Peck  
8-7 Joyce Proksch  
8-8 Randy Teegardin  
8-10 Skyler Henion  
8-12 George Lietz  
8-15 Cindy Beckwith  
8-18 Cole Davis  
8-24 Carol Vos  
8-25 Bob Tossava  
8-27 Diane Neeb  
8-28 Virginia Henion

## August Anniversaries

- 8-5 Tom & Carrie Duits  
8-9 John & Rose Fear  
8-10 Cheryl & Kevin Allerding, Clyde & Kate Watson  
8-11 Paul & Mary Kuhlman  
8-16 Randy & Brenda Teegardin  
8-17 Dave & Laurie DeDecker  
8-18 Steve & Peg Kaiser, Rick & Sharon Palmer,  
Chris & Dennis Bush  
8-27 Dan & Evelyn Granzow

## **In Our Prayers**

### **Continuing Prayers**

#### **Healthy pregnancies**

Jessica Green  
Jessica Zimmerman  
Corinna Palmer

#### **Births**

#### **Military**

Kayla Pohl, *daughter of Rob & Lisa Pohl*  
Myrina Clements, *daughter of Cherie Clements*  
Joshua Wright, *Eve Wright*  
Tim Krewson, *grandson of Mary Rider*  
Andrew Crumbeck, *grandson of Kay Howell*

Aaron Endsley, Adam Miller, Alyssa Mills, Amber Reid, Andrew Ferguson, Ashley Gillons, Austin Endsley, Ben Curtis, Carl Franson, Charles Krewson, Cole Davis, Dylan Kelmer, Edward Frost, Greg Scott, Jena Harwood, Jon Ingran, Jordan Swank, Josh Lewis, Justin Ogden, Lena Jordon, Noah Daniels, Phil DeVries, Ryan Davis, Taylor Gould, Tom Fenoseff, Zackary Green

**Companion Synods** in Honduras, Papua New Guinea, and Latvia

**Nursing home residents** . . . Beth Oehler, Dorothy Mayo, Deb Wood, Vivian Allerding

**Shut-ins** . . . Dave Bolton, Ethyl Simon, Ilene Hilson, Jamie Coplin, Opal Gillons, Shirley Smith

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.  
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Website:  
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## Our Staff:

Pastor: *Paul Kuhlman*  
[gracehastingspastor@gmail.com](mailto:gracehastingspastor@gmail.com)

Parish Admin: *Victoria Alt*  
[ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org)  
Mon – Thurs 8 AM - 3PM

Custodian: *Nathan Freedlund*  
Minister of Music: *Cindy Olson*

Choir Accompanists:  
*Marcia Bowman, Chris Bush*  
Bell Choir Director: *Kim Domke*  
Organist Emeritus: *Donna Buehl*

## Executive Committee:

President: *Doug Neeb*  
Vice President: *Chris Bush*  
Secretary: *Kate Watson*  
Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Winter

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day - May)  
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

### Summer

(June – Labor Day)  
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Sunday @ 10:00am

### Advent and Lent

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Nursery and Cry Room are available

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## All Ages Faith Building/Sunday School

### Winter

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day – May)  
9:30 AM

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Sunday @ 8:45 am



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## Committee Chairs

Brothers of Grace – *Joe Longcor*

Community Outreach – *Bill Freedlund*

Congregational Care – *Margaret Wood*

Faith Building – *Lorraine Freedlund*

Property – *Tom Peck & Phil Poholski*

Sarah Circle – *Kay Howell*

Social Activities – *Diane Neeb*

Stewardship – *Tim Schoessel*

Youth & Family – *Jana Bishop*

Worship – *Lorie Gladyness*